I. Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 3, line 29, of the specification as filed, as follows:

The term "at least partially surround" connotes at least partial, opposing establishment of one part or structure around another (see, e.g., Fig. 1). The compression sleeve element may have a first elongated member compression surface (11) and a larger elongated ~~compression~~ member compression surface (12) that act to transfer a compression force to the first elongated member and the larger elongated member, respectively. In some embodiments, the first elongated member compression surface may be an inner part of an inwardly projecting, annular (or partially annular) lip that overhangs at least part of an edge of the larger elongated member. Additionally, for purposes relative to clarity of description of the inventive technology, ~~the third portion of the first elongated member may be the to have a first longitudinal axis (13) and~~ the at least a fourth portion of the larger elongated member may have a ~~second~~ larger elongated member longitudinal axis (14). It should be noted that the term "at least a fourth portion" may be used because, indeed, it may be that in some embodiments of the inventive technology the entire larger elongated member may have nested within it the third portion of the first elongated member.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 4, line 9, of the specification as filed, as follows:

The inventive technology may include a compression enhancement element that is situated so that, upon its activation (e.g., upon rotation of a clamping lever (15) of a clamp (16) having an eccentric cam (17) and/or sufficient rotation of a threaded ~~bolt~~ bolt (24) into a nut (25), as in cases where there is no clamping lever ~~(see Fig. 7)~~ (see Fig. 7)), it forces the larger elongated member compression surface towards the larger elongated member, and the first elongated member compression surface towards a site (18) on the first elongated member that is not within the larger elongated member, thereby retaining

the first elongated member in fixed position relative to the larger elongated member. The term "forces...towards" describes that which occurs whenever a compressive force is generated; the term is broad enough to cover the case where each of the aforementioned compression surfaces are either in direct contact with a respective elongated member or not. Similarly, one part may surround or partially surround another (or be around or be partially around another) notwithstanding the absence of direct contact between the two parts. Of course, direct contact may be absent where there is established within at least part of the larger elongated member (e.g., a second portion thereof) an annular gap filler (19) whose purpose may be to fill a space between part of the larger elongated member and part of the first elongated member nested within. Often, however, the first elongated member compression surface is adequately sized (e.g., small enough in diameter) to directly contact the first elongated member, rendering an annular gap filler unnecessary. Of course, the use of significantly differently sized tubes as part of a telescoping apparatus is one way in which this problem may arise. It should be understood that, as used herein, annular does not require a cross-section having concentric or even circular inner and/or outer surface cross-section shapes. Indeed, as but one example, the inner shape may be vertically ribbed such that it contacts the first elongated member at only intermittent vertical sections (e.g., see Fig. 2).

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 5, line 14, of the specification as filed, as follows:

It should be noted also that the relative motion obstruction element is not intended to prevent all types of motion of the compression sleeve element relative to the larger elongated member. Indeed, in the preferred embodiments, the relative motion obstruction element, even when engaged, does not prevent perpendicular (22) (e.g., radial) displacement of the compression enhancement element relative to the ~~second~~ larger elongated member longitudinal axis. Such perpendicular displacement is prevented by the compression enhancement element when activated. That such motion is prevented by the compression enhancement element (and not by the relative motion obstruction element) may enable the compression sleeve element to be easily removed upon

deactivation of and effective disengagement of the compression enhancement element. It should be noted that perpendicular displacement occurs whenever the displacement has any component in a perpendicular direction.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 5, line 27, of the specification as filed, as follows:

Deactivation of the compression enhancement element connotes manipulation of the compression retention element only such that the compressive force that retains the first elongated member in fixed relative position is removed. Deactivation is a step that is different and exclusive of the step of effective disengagement, discussed below. In embodiments where there is no clamping ~~lever,~~ lever, deactivation may involve the sufficient loosening of a threaded bolt 24 ~~bolt~~ to just release the compressive force that retains the first elongated member in fixed position relative to the larger elongated member. In embodiments where there is a clamping lever (see, e.g. Fig. 1), deactivation may only involve the manipulation of the lever to just remove the compressive force. ~~Even in embodiments~~ In embodiments where there is a clamping lever, there may be a ~~threaded bolt (24) and nut (25)~~ first pin 41 and second pin 42 system (the lever, ~~nut, bolt~~ pins and collar all considered parts of the compression enhancement element), but in such levered designs, activation and deactivation of the compression enhancement element typically does not involve manipulation of that ~~bolt or nut~~ pin or bolt. After deactivation, the first elongated member may be movable relative to the larger elongated member.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 6, line 7, of the specification as filed, as follows:

Effective engagement connotes at the least the establishment of the compression enhancement element at least partially around the compression sleeve element such that the compression enhancement element does not fall from this position because of gravity or other anticipated force and such that it cannot be perpendicularly removed from this position. In cases where the compression enhancement element is non-levered, it may

involve merely the establishment of a ~~bolt~~ bolt (24) into receptive holes and the sufficient initiation of threading of the bolt into ~~a nut~~ a nut (25). In cases where the compression enhancement element is levered, it may involve the establishment of a ~~bolt into~~ first pin 41 into receptive holes and the sufficient initiation of threading of ~~the bolt~~ the first pin into a nut so a subsequent operation of the lever effects a compressive force to retain the first elongated member in fixed position relative to the larger elongated member.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 6, line 34, of the specification as filed, as follows:

Upon deactivation and effective disengagement of the compression enhancement element, the compression sleeve element may have the advantage of perpendicular displaceability, and perpendicular removability, allowing for a quick disassembly without the need to slide the compression enhancement element either along either of the elongated members. Of course, perpendicular may be relative to the ~~second~~ larger elongated member longitudinal axis, and include radial in cases where the first elongated member is substantially circular in cross-section.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 14, line 22, of the PCT specification as amended, as follows:

~~The inventive technology is, in at least~~ In at least one embodiment, an apparatus (1) that comprises a compression sleeve element (2) established at least partially around portions of a first elongated member (6) that telescopes from a larger elongated member (8) in which it may nest. A relative motion obstruction element (4) may disallow only certain types of motion, e.g., rotational and axial, of the compression sleeve element relative to the elongated members around which it may be at least partially established. As it ~~instead~~ may be the compression enhancement element (3) – which may be used to generate a retaining compression force element – that prevents perpendicular displacement of the compression sleeve element, deactivation and effective disengagement of the compression enhancement element may allow for a quick removal

of the compression sleeve element without requiring that it be slid off an end of either elongated member.